

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated April 14, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 14, 2004. Claims 1-16 and 27-42 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-16, 27-33, 35, 37-39 and 42 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Claims 34, 36, 40 and 41 stand rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

The Examiner had indicated that only claims 1-16 and 27-41 remain pending in the Application, and also indicated that claim 42 was allowable. Review of the case indicated that claim 42 was never cancelled or restricted during prosecution. Applicants request that the Examiner please confirm the status of pending and allowed claim 42.

Claims 2, 5, 8, 12, 15, 27, 30, 36, 37, and 39 are amended to correct matters of form. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference.

Claims 34, 36, 40 and 41, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner asserts that claims 34, 36, 40, and 41 lack antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully respond to this rejection by amending claims 34, 36, 40, and 41 to clarify the invention. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the Final Office Action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this Final Office Action.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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